Wildlife Sanctuary is under submission to the Govt. of Karnataka but the final orders are yet to be issued.

(b) No, Sir. Collection of dead wood for the bonafied requirements of the local people as such do not lead to deforestation.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up a special Haj Cell

5605. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a special Haj Cell;

(b) if so, what is its composition and the activity for the last three years alongwith the assistance/ facilities offered to Haj Pilgrims in India and aborad; and

(c) whether the Haj pilgrims this year are being discriminated when Air India is not orgranising flights for them and the difference in services and cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes Sir. There is a Haj Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The Haj Cell has an Officer on Special Duty, a Section Officer, two Assistants and a clerk. Its strength and facilities are augmented during the Haj season. There is a joint Secretary in charge of the Haj Cell whose activities are overseen by Secretary and at the Ministerial-level.

Haj Cell is the nodal point in the Government of India for coordinating all arrangements for Haj. It liaises with the Central and State Haj Committees, various Ministries of the Government of India like Civil Aviation, Surface Transport, Home Affairs and Finance, and our Missions in Saudi Arabia for making arrangements for the Haj pilgrims.

Assistance and facilities offered to pilgrims include fixation of Haj quota, release of foreign exchange, carriage of pilgrims by air/sea, accommodation in the two holy cities in Suadi Arabia, pre-departure immigration/health formalities, work connected with the Haj Goodwill Delegation, despatch of Building Renting Delegation and Building Selection Team, medical/administrative contingents to Saudi Arabia, supply of medicines for the benefit of pilgrims, despatch of Khuddamul-Hujjaj (Haj volunteers) from various states and review of the arrangements with a view to improving facilities and services.

(c) No, Sir.

There is no discrimination against Haj pilgrims. Air charters are being organised by Air India which is unable to provide them on its own without disruption of its own flights due to capacity constraints. The charter services are upto acceptable international standards.

The cost of the charter is not fully passed on to the pilgrims. For Haj 1994, as against charter cost of Rs. 17,000/- per pilgrim the Haj fare has been fixed at Rs. 12000/-.

Treaty signed between India and Bhutan

5606. SHRI RATNA BHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(s) what are the details of the treaty signed between India and Bhutan in 1949;

(b) whether any other agreements were signed between the two countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) : SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The text of peace and freindship treaty between India and Bhutan of 8th August, 1949